

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Amended) A packaging assembly for food products to be cooked or heated in microwave ovens, which comprises:

an inner wrapper which contains the food product, said inner wrapper capable of transmitting heat or steam to; an outer package of plastic material which encloses said inner wrapper;

at least one layer of a heat-concentrating material; and

a substrate attached to an outer face of said outer package;

wherein said at least one layer of heat-concentrating material causes the opening of the outer package by melting a portion of the outer package, during heating of the assembly in a microwave oven.

2. (Previously Amended) A packaging assembly as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising a sheet of a heat-insulating material, attached to an inner part of the outer package.

3. (Previously Amended) A packaging assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the substrate is made up of a continuous web of flexible material, common to a plurality of said products each including said outer package and [its] said inner wrapper.

4. (Original) A packaging assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the substrate is made up of a sheet of a size equal to or smaller than that of the outer package.

5. (Original) A packaging assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the substrate is made of paper.

6. (Previously Amended) A packaging assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the inner wrapper comprises at least one area having two sheets of material, and wherein the layer of heat-concentrating material is inserted between said two sheets of material.

7. (Original) A packaging assembly as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the layer of heat-concentrating material is applied as a coating onto the sheet of insulating material.

8. (Original) A packaging assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said heat-concentrating material is an oxide of aluminum.

9. (Original) A packaging assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the outer package is attached onto the substrate by means of an adhesive.

10. (Currently Amended) A packaging assembly as claimed in Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2, wherein the sheet of insulating material is attached to the outer package by means of an adhesive.

11. (Original) A packaging assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the outer package is made of polyethylene and the inner wrapper is made of paper.

12. (Previously Amended) A packaging assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the outer package presents at least one weld-line of a predetermined strength, wherein said at least one weld-line facilitates the opening of the outer package during heating.

13. (Previously Presented) A packaging assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one layer of heat-concentrating material further comprises:

at least one strip of heat-concentrating material.

14. (Previously Presented) A packaging assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one strip of heat-concentrating material is applied on said outer package.

15. (New) A packaging assembly for food products to be cooked or heated in microwave

ovens, which comprises:

an inner wrapper made of paper which contains the food product, said inner wrapper capable of transmitting heat or steam to an outer package of plastic material which encloses said inner wrapper;

at least one layer of a heat-concentrating material; and

a substrate attached to an outer face of said outer package;

wherein said at least one layer of heat-concentrating material causes the opening of the outer package by melting a portion of the outer package, during heating of the assembly in a microwave oven.